

THE TIMES
EST. 1854

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Entered January 27, 1905, at the Post Office at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter.

PUBLISHED every day in the year at 10 South Tenth Street, Richmond, Va., by the Times-Dispatch Publishing Co., Inc., Charles E. Hasbrouck, Editor and Manager.

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE TIMES-Dispatch, and not to individuals.

TELEPHONE: Randolph 1. Private Branch Exchange connecting with all departments.

SPECIAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES: Hasbrouck, Story & Brooks, Inc., Fifth Avenue Building, New York; Mutual Life Building, Philadelphia; Peoples Gas Building, Chicago.

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 216 Fourteenth Street, N. W.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN ADVANCE, by mail: Daily and Sunday, one year, \$6.00; 6 months, \$3.00; 3 months, \$1.50. Sunday only, one year, \$2.00; 6 months, \$1.00; 3 months, \$0.50. Single copies, 5 cents. BY LOCAL CARRIER SERVICE: Daily with Sunday, 15 cents a week; Daily without Sunday, 10 cents a week; Sunday only, 5 cents.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication wish to have their work returned, please enclose a return address and stamp for that purpose.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1916.

"Thoroughly Ashamed"

TRANSLATIONS of the papers and letters of the excellent Herr Captain von Papen, recently seized by British authorities, convey the information that George Sylvester Viereck is "thoroughly ashamed" of his country. This puts the editor of the *Atlantic* and an exact copy of patriotism with Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who has suffered it to become known on several occasions that he also is "thoroughly ashamed" of the United States. The balance is restored by the circumstance that the country is "thoroughly ashamed" of both of them.

Governor Whitman has finally decided that the bird in hand is the one which he hopes will molt again.

Borrowing From Bond Proceeds

ONE serious trouble with the methods of finance pursued by Richmond is the practice of borrowing from the proceeds of bond issues to meet demands that should be met from the city's current revenues. The inevitable result of this habit is confusion as to the city's real financial situation, failure to appreciate properly the true gravity of the accumulated deficit, and delay in providing means to meet the city's money needs.

The practice of borrowing from bond issues is of exceedingly doubtful propriety. Proceeds of such issues should be expended solely for the purposes for which the bonds were authorized. The saving in interest may sometimes be considerable, but a better system of handling loans and deposits probably would provide the same advantage. The city should be able to obtain for its funds on deposit nearly as much interest as it is required to pay for money it borrows.

Bond issues by municipalities are justifiable only when made for permanent improvements. The city's normal expenditures should be financed from current revenues.

Now that the ground hog has had his day and the sun has pulled off its eclipse, we are waiting to hear about the condition of the Delaware peach crop and the first round robin.

Changes in Tax Laws

EVERYBODY knows, and has known for a long time, that the State of Virginia, in the fiscal year 1917, will lose \$500,000 in revenue from liquor licenses. The people were informed a month ago that the new tax laws, because of changes made in the rates suggested by the Committee on Tax Reform, had failed to yield the expected revenue. At that time Governor Stuart and his associates on the advisory board recommended changes in the law that would provide revenue to take the place of that lost through the disappearance of liquor taxes and the reduction of rates on various intangibles. The Advisory Tax Board now has made these recommendations specific.

This is absolutely all there is to the pre-vailexiting. Efforts to recover back taxes, which it was said were to be abandoned, are not to be abandoned. The advisory board proposes some equalization and some increases, combined with new methods of dividing certain taxes between the State and the localities.

As to the wisdom of these recommendations, there may be sound reason for differences of opinion. Certainly Richmond ought not to be expected to increase its present contribution to the expenses of the Commonwealth. Richmond's opposition should be presented forcefully, but without hysteria. It will go farther and fare better by keeping its head.

The New York Sun says if the time ever comes when mankind uses a universal language, there will be fewer lawsuits and disagreements than there are to-day. No universal language will ever settle a tailor's bill or bring about an understanding between diplomats.

Which School Shall We Follow?

THOSE opponents of preparedness who hold their position with the declaration that making adequate military plans is unchristian, even for defensive purposes, have found some difficulty in supporting their contention by scriptural references. Where they have cited a chapter, a passage or a verse to prop their peace-at-any-price doctrine, advocates of a less humble course have quoted injunctions of precisely contrary tenor.

As a matter of fact, the many churches, the innumerable sects and the widely variant schools of theology in the world bear sufficient evidence that many portions of the Scriptures are susceptible of more than one interpretation. The Parable of the Unjust Steward, for example, has been explained in a dozen different ways, and any of these explanations could be turned to account as an argument in behalf of some theory or other. In the case of obscure passages, certainly, their lesson depends entirely on their interpretation.

It is to the clergy that the world looks for interpretation and for application to present conditions. When the clergy agree on essentials, the course of conduct to be pursued in matters of everyday life is clear, but when they disagree, who is to decide what the Bible teaches the world to practice? Rev. Charles A. Eaton, a distinguished pastor of the Baptist Church, a man in charge of a peculiarly

influential pastorate and a dominant figure in the religious circles of New York, has resigned, in order to take up the cause of preparedness, stating that he is thoroughly in accord with President Wilson's program.

Dr. Eaton is not only a Christian, but a teacher of Christianity. Some of those who oppose preparedness are also teachers of Christianity. Which school of interpretation are we to follow as that which bears true witness? The answer should be plain—the one that would supply the needs and ward off the dangers that threaten this country.

Basking in the sunshine of Florida, Mr. Bryan says, in delivering his opinion on the President's Western speeches, "I am sure that an overwhelming majority of the American people will oppose entering this war on either side for any causes which have arisen or are likely to arise." Mr. Bryan is authority on the "overwhelming majority of the American people." He has faced it three times.

Kitchener's Star Declines

ANOTHER British idea appears to be tottering and about to fall. Earl Kitchener, turned to almost universally as the man who could and would lead his countrymen to victory, is to be supplanted in the direction of British military policy.

Already he is shorn of a large portion of his authority in favor of Sir William Robertson, the new chief of the general staff. London expects that in the near future he will be succeeded as War Secretary by a civilian—perhaps by Lloyd George—and transferred to command in the Near East. His star is setting fast.

It is easy, of course, to criticize, and for British blunders in the conduct of operations Kitchener makes a convenient scapegoat. It may be that in justice he should bear a large part of the blame for that lack of aggressiveness and finality that has been a principal characteristic of the British campaigns on land. Whatever the cause, Britain has failed at the critical moment, since the battle of the Marne. There has been an absence of aggressiveness—of that final "punch" that in conflicts between nations or pugilists often spells the difference between success and failure, between victory and defeat.

There is to be a new conduct of the war, with Haig supplanting French and Robertson taking the place of Kitchener. In great contests like that now being waged nations are impatient of reverse, scornful of delay. They don't care to listen to excuses, but demand a change, even though they cannot be assured it is for the better. It may be that any change that is at all likely to be made will be for the better, for success in the field is sometimes as much a matter of psychology as of armaments and men. The soldier must have confidence in his leader. Like the rest of us in the ordinary vocations of life, he judges capacity by achievement.

There is a good deal of myth in the stories of many "great generals." Every war is a new war. Principles, perhaps, are enduring, but they are limited and affected by new instruments of locomotion and destruction that the ingenuity of man provides. The value of novel weapons or formations is to be proved only by experiment, and some one must make the test and bear the blame if failure follows. Haig and Robertson will reap where other men have sown.

Times without number in the history of the world military chieftains have climbed to triumph on the shoulders of discredited predecessors. They have learned the lessons for which others paid the heavy price; they have wielded the armies that others have whipped with infinite toil and trouble into shape and efficiency, and so equipped, have won the victory. Had they been earlier in the field, they might have worn crowns of thorns instead of crowns of laurel.

One day the Colonel is in the pool throwing mud right and left, the next day he is chucking little children under their chins and giving them taffy. As a swinger, the Colonel beats the pendulum of an eight-day clock.

Splitting the Doctor's Fee

ATTORNEY-GENERAL POLLARD'S opinion as to the constitutionality of legislation prohibiting the practice of "splitting fees" between family physicians, on the one hand, and surgeons and other specialists, on the other, seems to leave the legal question in doubt; but that the practice is an unhealthy one, violative of sound principles of public policy, does not admit of doubt. It is vicious, and the vice should be cured.

It does not therefore follow that legislation is the best method of effecting a cure, even if it were certain that such laws would be upheld by the courts. Fundamentally, it is a matter for the profession itself. Within the profession, however, something more than perfunctory disapproval is necessary. Medical ethics does not sanction "fee splitting," but medical practice, it has been shown in a good many instances in other cities, finds plenty of ways of evading the ethical anathema.

If an operation is performed by some specialist recommended by the family physician, it frequently happens that the family physician is present in the operating room, and there plays some minor part. When the fee is divided he is not paid for bringing in the patient, but for the professional service rendered, or assumed to be rendered. The effect on the patient's pocketbook, however, is exactly the same.

We have the statement of a Richmond physician that "fee splitting" is not indulged in here. If our informant is in possession of all the facts, Richmond is to be congratulated, for it is one of the few cities in the country where the practice has not obtained a footing. We rather imagine, though, there have been cases of which he has not heard.

"Cyclone" Davis, of Texas, should send a bale of cotton to the New Jersey Board of Education for the latter's decision that the absence of a shirt collar is no evidence that a schoolboy has no shirt.

It is "akin to the law" in Indiana for a candidate to tack up his announcement on a telegraph pole. But an Indiana candidate need not have to tack up his announcement anywhere as long as he has lungs.

The G. O. P. in Middle Over Wilson's Middle West Speeches. Headline. But wait until the G. O. P. meets the R. M. in June if you want to see what a real middle is.

Farm products are considerably higher.—Commercial report. So is everything in the cities. Even the street dresses show no tendency of coming down.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Boredom's Last Word.

Of all the bores who fill the earth. To put a crimp in harmless mirth And make men curse existence, The most offensive is the one Who knows how all things should be done— And tells, 'twice all resistance.

He knows what presidents should do And kings and other rulers, too, He knows quite all about them; So he fills your unwilling ears With extracts from their hopes and fears And why he has to doubt them.

He knows the only way to make The Kaiser in his war boots quake And flee for the tall timber; He knows how German armies could Chase allied forces through the wood And make them weak and limber.

He knows exactly how to save From early and dishonored grave This poor benighted nation; He'll tell you how it can be done, Although you feel you'd like to run From such misinformation.

Poetic justice in this case Should pick out some secluded place And seek this bore in prison, With all his allied forces. If they In one large cell would talk away, Why, each would then get his.

"I am weary of the daily grind," "Why not take a turn once a month?"

As It Was Written. Orchestra leader (to the cornetist)—Here, here! Let up! You make me weary. Cornetist—Well, if you want a "rest" why didn't you mark it in the score?

Shakespeare Day by Day.

For the bore: "Thou hast damnable iteration!"—King Henry IV, 1, 2.

For the hypocrite: "The world is grown so bad That wrens make prey where eagles dare not perch."—Richard III, 1, 3.

For the true: "A friend should bear his friend's infirmities."—Julius Caesar, IV, 3.

For the timid: "But screw your courage to the sticking-place."—Macbeth, 1, 7.

The Penologist Says:

If Belgium does decide to make a treaty of peace with Germany, it should see that the terms are engraved on armor plate. A "scrap of paper" is too easy to destroy.

Good Riddance.

Grubbs—Are you having much luck with your chickens? Stubbs—Fine. A philanthropist in disguise visited my place last night and cleaned out the roost.

Not Impossible.

He fervently—Do you think you could learn to love me? She cynically—Perhaps I could. At school my instructors were kind enough to say that when I put my mind on it I could learn to do almost anything.

Cause and Effect.

"Is this land rich?" asked the prospective purchaser, cautiously. "It certainly ought to be," replied the gentleman farmer. "I have put all the money I had into it."

Tattlings.

The best man at the wedding is never congratulated. Advice is a second-hand article which most of us neglect to take when it is first offered. Getting what we want whets the appetite for something better.

A man seldom hits the mark when he shoots off his mouth.

The shoemaker's motto is, stick to your last. Of society, last as long as you can stick. Don't put all of your eggs in another man's basket.

At the age of fifty, all wine tastes the same to a man; to a woman at the same age, nothing but rum and brandy. Or, as Dr. Holland expressed it, "What is so dead as a perished delight!" The wages of sin do not settle the bill. Life is what we try to dodge. A speech at a banquet is what the speaker wouldn't say to you in private.

Shakes Says:

The proud father of a bawling baby boy gets over it when the baby grows up, gets its first job and is bounced by the boss.

Counsel—Your honor, I have done. Judge—It is for the jury to say whether it is well done.

Striking a Balance.

Billy—After wine, women and song, the gamut has been played. Betty—And after smoke, whisky and a joy ride, the deuce.

Guaranteed Cure.

"I can for peace at any price." "I'll often always said: 'But if you don't want peace in a trice, the folks can be misled.'"

Hand trouble-maker no advice, But smash the blighter's head!"

Chats With Virginia Editors

"Will the commissioner who is to appear with the proposed funding bill, in cases arising under the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. Or a preacher, perhaps."

"If the Virginia General Assembly were to be told for killing time, the verdict would be murder in the first degree," says the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "Let up! This Legislature is a great improvement in this respect on some of its predecessors."

The Blackstone Courier is happier than it was two weeks ago. It says: "That's all a mistake about labeling substances which contain liquor, the permission being to carry the proverbial quart without it. What a conclusion to make to the prohibition, applied. But concessions must be made them of course."

The Staunton News evidently thinks somebody is going a little too far with certain kinds of reform. It says: "If things keep going as they are now going, a thief will not be a thief in five years more, and even the highwayman may be generally applauded as a victim of social injustice."

The Lynchburg Advance shows its wickedness in a paragraph which reads as follows: "Owing to the day fund, millions are wearing women's coats with fur trim. We never thought to turn fashion prophet, but it is easy to see that mottled connectives will be worn quite a good deal next summer."

Fires are sometimes blessing in disguise. The Sandy Valley News was burned out, lock, stock and barrel, on December 25. On February 4 the News made its appearance in enlarged and much improved form. It explains: "We want to work immediately to erect a temporary office building and install a new plant, and now have one of the most modern and best equipped plants to be found in any country town."

The Gloucester News Reporter seems to have given up all hope of relief at the hands of the Legislature, and has appealed to its county official.

chairs. It says: "The sheep growers of the county should be given all possible relief from the depredations of sheep-killing dogs. The superstitious have the matter under consideration and should be given all assistance possible in keeping out some way to remedy the trouble. Forty valuable sheep were killed in one neighborhood within the past ten days."

That eleventh-hour prohibition organ, the *Newport News Times-Herald*, seems to be getting the map up in its argument. It says: "A bill has been introduced in the Legislature providing that qualified voters in the several cities and counties of the State may vote on the question as to whether or not a citizen shall have the privilege of buying a quart. 'Boh! Let us have State-wide or local option, but not a mixture or both!'"

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 9, 1866.)

Rev. John E. Edwards, who is in Baltimore collecting aid for the poor of Richmond, having been sent by the association of Churches in New York writes that he has collected \$1,250 in money and about \$500 in supplies for the relief of suffering in Church Hill and Union Hill.

Artemus Ward is in Petersburg and will lecture there to-night. It is understood that the great American humorist will lecture in this city within the next week or ten days.

The bill granting a charter to the Lynchburg and Danville Railroad, which was passed yesterday, finally passed the House of Delegates.

There is also great complaint in Petersburg of exorbitant rental rates demanded by the landlords of the city. It is understood that business and residential purposes are scarce in Petersburg, and it seems the landlords have things pretty much their own way.

The month of January, just passed, had two full moons, and February will have none.

Nearly all of the paper 2-cent notes (shilling) have been redeemed and no more will be issued. The Currency Bureau will in a few days issue a very large number of the recent shilling notes.

Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, who was the Vice-President of the late Confederacy, has accepted the United States Senatorship from the State of Georgia, but in his letter of acceptance intimates that he does not expect to be allowed to take the seat to which the Georgia Legislature elected him.

East and North Rivers (New York's harbor) are blocked with policy, which will result in a delay in the sailing of vessels to move in or out. The large steamers have a very hard time making headway in the harbor.

Thad Stevens now maintains that only nineteen States will be required to ratify the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States; that the Southern States have no voice in the matter, and are not to be counted as States in any sense—certainly not in the list of the States the affirmative vote of which is necessary to make the amendments effective.

Senator Clarke yesterday offered a bill in the United States Senate providing for the severe punishment of persons convicted of kidnapping negroes.

Fred Douglass and E. H. Downing, another negro of the same stripe, yesterday called on the President to demand that he should state the policy of the country, and especially on the negro question, and to ascertain directly his views on the colored man. The President expressed good will for the negro and said he would be the Moses to lead the colored tribes to the land of promise, but he was not willing to adopt a policy which would result in danger to the colored man and probably lead to a war of races. Nothing, he said, but evil would result from treating upon the people of the District of Columbia or any other section a principle in direct opposition to the expressed will of the majority. The President was very blunt and even Douglass and Downing, who had been told by the President that they would have to take the President's word for it, were not disposed to exercise the power given him to right the wrongs of the colored man. The President expressed his regret that he could not say, "I have always had great faith in the people."

A special dispatch from Washington received last night says: The reply of President Johnson to the negro members of Congress, by Fred Douglass, which called on him today, is the talk of the town to-night. It has created no small stir, and has been regarded as another evidence of the President's stern determination not to yield a single inch to the wild vagaries of Thad Stevens, Charles Sumner and the other radicals of their kind.

Current Editorial Comment

Good ground exists for the belief that the burning of the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa was due to the activities of German agents. The Canadian press, reported yesterday, has been very busy in this connection. It is a matter of public knowledge that other attempts have been made to destroy the Parliament Buildings in Canada. The President's recent statement that he was not disposed to exercise the power given him to right the wrongs of the colored man, the President expressed his regret that he could not say, "I have always had great faith in the people."

A special dispatch from Washington received last night says: The reply of President Johnson to the negro members of Congress, by Fred Douglass, which called on him today, is the talk of the town to-night. It has created no small stir, and has been regarded as another evidence of the President's stern determination not to yield a single inch to the wild vagaries of Thad Stevens, Charles Sumner and the other radicals of their kind.

The best man at the wedding is never congratulated. Advice is a second-hand article which most of us neglect to take when it is first offered. Getting what we want whets the appetite for something better.

A man seldom hits the mark when he shoots off his mouth. The shoemaker's motto is, stick to your last. Of society, last as long as you can stick. Don't put all of your eggs in another man's basket.

At the age of fifty, all wine tastes the same to a man; to a woman at the same age, nothing but rum and brandy. Or, as Dr. Holland expressed it, "What is so dead as a perished delight!" The wages of sin do not settle the bill. Life is what we try to dodge. A speech at a banquet is what the speaker wouldn't say to you in private.

Shakes Says:

The proud father of a bawling baby boy gets over it when the baby grows up, gets its first job and is bounced by the boss.

Counsel—Your honor, I have done. Judge—It is for the jury to say whether it is well done.

Striking a Balance.

Billy—After wine, women and song, the gamut has been played. Betty—And after smoke, whisky and a joy ride, the deuce.

Guaranteed Cure.

"I can for peace at any price." "I'll often always said: 'But if you don't want peace in a trice, the folks can be misled.'"

Hand trouble-maker no advice, But smash the blighter's head!"

Chats With Virginia Editors

"Will the commissioner who is to appear with the proposed funding bill, in cases arising under the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. Or a preacher, perhaps."

"If the Virginia General Assembly were to be told for killing time, the verdict would be murder in the first degree," says the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "Let up! This Legislature is a great improvement in this respect on some of its predecessors."

The Blackstone Courier is happier than it was two weeks ago. It says: "That's all a mistake about labeling substances which contain liquor, the permission being to carry the proverbial quart without it. What a conclusion to make to the prohibition, applied. But concessions must be made them of course."

The Staunton News evidently thinks somebody is going a little too far with certain kinds of reform. It says: "If things keep going as they are now going, a thief will not be a thief in five years more, and even the highwayman may be generally applauded as a victim of social injustice."

The Lynchburg Advance shows its wickedness in a paragraph which reads as follows: "Owing to the day fund, millions are wearing women's coats with fur trim. We never thought to turn fashion prophet, but it is easy to see that mottled connectives will be worn quite a good deal next summer."

Fires are sometimes blessing in disguise. The Sandy Valley News was burned out, lock, stock and barrel, on December 25. On February 4 the News made its appearance in enlarged and much improved form. It explains: "We want to work immediately to erect a temporary office building and install a new plant, and now have one of the most modern and best equipped plants to be found in any country town."

The Gloucester News Reporter seems to have given up all hope of relief at the hands of the Legislature, and has appealed to its county official.

No Time for Trifling

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



—From the Indianapolis News.

GETTING THE WORLD'S FUR TRADE

BY FREDERICK J. HASKIN

America is out for the world's fur business. New York just closed a successful fur auction. St. Louis held her big sale a few weeks ago. Both these sales were unique in American history. New York will have another and bigger auction in March. Apparently the United States is at last to take her rightful place as a world fur market.

The importance of the world's fur trade is not generally realized. Furs are one of the most valuable of all commodities, and the demand for them is steadily increasing. The fur trade has its branches in every corner of the globe. Vast herds of beaver, mink, muskrat and other fur-bearing animals are raised in every section, from savagery to the highest civilization.

London is today the world's fur market. Before the war broke out she held the position unchallenged. The fur trade from Canada, the Western United States, Mexico, South America, Siberia, China—practically the whole world's supply went to a few London brokers. These brokers graded the furs into the various grades, and sent them to the world's fur buyers and manufacturers. On this basis the furs were sold and sold. Small auctions were held regularly in Russia and Germany, but these were a German monopoly, and London's market was the only one.

With the entrance of the United States into the game, affairs take on a new complexion. There are ten fur companies in North America alone. Only the business of the Western Hemisphere can be done by the United States. It should assure the building up of a profitable industry. Moreover, shipments to the New York market show that Australian furs will be sold there. The center of financial gravity may shift. The fur trade is a traditional position can only be overcome by time, and by satisfactory service to all the world on the part of the United States.

England's commanding position in the fur business goes back many hundred years. The fur resources of Canada were one of the chief reasons why that country was won for England. The Hudson's Bay Company, and how its wonderful organization penetrated the wilderness and opened up a empire forms a chapter of history. The center of the fur trade, the robes of judges, chancellors and other high officials are trimmed with the same material.

England's excellent workmanship has won her a powerful position in the fur business. Her drying of furs is recognized as the standard, and drying and tanning are two of the most important in the manufacture. Great quantities of American furs were annually shipped to Germany, where they were dried and made up, to be returned and sold here under a German trademark. Greece is another point where lower priced furs are made up. The effect of the war on all these countries was, of course, temporary to paralyze the business.

Many Trappers Laid Off. Hence the American trapper often found himself in a position where it did not pay him to kill for an account of the expense for traps and bait, or for ride cartridges. Many trappers sold their furs to local merchants for the flat bounty, and this is a pity, for the trapper carried 820 state bounty they would sell for \$20, as though the fur itself were valueless.

The American fur manufacturer and retailer also felt the pinch, as his European source of supplies was cut off. As the world got used to the idea of war, and started going about its business again, matters ease up, until today they are coming back toward normal. But much of the embarrassment in America could have been avoided if we had had our own regular markets established in our own country. Taking the matter together with the stimulus that an American world market would give to the whole industry in the United States, the new development is clearly of first importance.

Of course, London is very firmly established in her position. The biggest New York fur dealers are slow to admit the probability of dislodging her to any great extent for some time to come. They are coming back toward normal with an organ playing "America." The auction was even more successful than the men who planned it had anticipated. They had more orders than they could fill, and big shipments of Australian skins are still en route that will arrive too late for the sale. If the second auction, to be held in March, comes up to expectations, a building up of the fur trade in America is clearly of first importance.

Some idea of the immense magnitude of the London fur business can be obtained from figures such as these. If America gets her legitimate share centered at home, it cannot fail to benefit the whole country.